

REMARKS

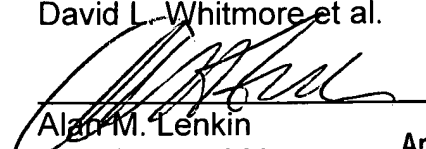
Initially, applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for indicating the allowability of all of the pending claims. However, to ensure that the record is complete, applicants are concurrently submitting a Request for Continued Examination, along with an Information Disclosure Statement. The present amendments to the claims are also being submitted.

With the present amendment, claims 24, 26, 27, 31, 34, and 39 have been amended to clarify their scope. Support for the amendments to the claims is provided throughout the originally filed application. For example, support for the amendments to claims 24, 26, 27, 31, and 39 is found in the specification at page 3, lines 21 – 22; page 76, lines 11 – 16; and page 92, lines 21 – 22. Additional support for the amendments to claims 24, 26, 31, and 39 is found in the specification at page 77, lines 4 – 13; page 78, lines 3 – 7; page 86, line 14 - page 87, line 1; and Figs. 39, 45, and 47. Claim 34 has been amended to correct a minor syntax error. Thus, no prohibited new matter has been added.

Any amendments to the claims in this amendment that have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
David L. Whitmore et al.



Alan M. Lenkin
Reg. No. 40,063

Arnold Turk
Reg. No. 33,094

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191